

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EPA-04 AID-05 /028 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MILAN IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

OSD/ISA PRIORITY

JCS PRIORITY

USAREUR PRIORITY

USEUCOM PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

SETAF VICENZA PRIORITY

CSA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 185891

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, IT, US

SUBJECT: EXPLOSION OF LETHAL GAS IN LOMBARDY

REF: STATE 184785

1. AT TELEPHONE REQUEST OF CHEF DE CABINET PETRIGNANI
IN ROME, ITALIAN EMBASSY CHARGE (TAMAGNINI) CALLED ON
ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OES LINDSEY GRANT TO
REQUEST USG ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH TCDD ESPECIALLY
IN DECONTAMINATION OF AFFECTED AREAS.

2. WE SUGGESTED THAT GOI WORK CLOSELY WITH AND THROUGH
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AMEMBASSY ROME (MANNIELLO) IN SEEKING EXPERT TECHNICAL

ASSISTANCE. TAMAGNINI EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT POSSIBLY ONE OR TWO US EXPERTS MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO VISIT THE SITE TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT ESPECIALLY RE CLEAN-UP. WE NOTED THAT AS INCIDENT IS RELATIVELY LOCAL FZ EXPERTS INDICATION OF READINESS TO MEET EXPENSES OF EXPERTS WOULD ELIMINATE NEED TO PUT SUCH ASSISTANCE IN FORMAL EMERGENCY PLANNING FRAMEWORK. TAMAGNINI STATED THAT TO EXTENT SPECIALIZED TECHNIQUES NEEDED TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM, GOI COULD DEFRAID EXPENSES OF EXPERTS.

3. COMMENT: EPA AND OTHER USG AGENCIES HAVING EXPERTISE IN CHEMICAL, MEDICAL, ENGINEERING, AND OTHER ASPECTS OF TCDD PROBLEM WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE EXPERT PERSONNEL. SUBJECT TO FORMAL GOI REQUEST AND ARRANGEMENTS RE FUNDING, PERHAPS IMMEDIATE NEED IS FOR SMALL, 2-3 PERSON TEAM, TO MAKE ON-SITE INSPECTION AND CONSULT WITH ITALIAN AUTHORITIES. COMPOSITION OF TEAM WOULD DEPEND ON BEST JUDGMENT OF EMBASSY IN CONSULTATION WITH GOI OFFICIALS. END COMMENT.

4. FYI. WE STRESSED POINT TO TAMAGNINI THAT ANY PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF US ROLE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT INITIATIVE REQUESTING US ASSISTANCE COMES ENTIRELY FROM GOI AND NOT OTHERWISE AS INDICATED IN ITALIAN PRESS. END FYI. KISSINGER

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